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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1996)

Rapporteur: Mr. Farouk AL-ATTAR (Syrian Arab Republic)

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* A/51/150.

** This document contains chapters I and II of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. Other chapters of the report have been issued separately in documents A/51/23 (Parts II to VIII). The complete report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

18 September 1996

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report to the General Assembly of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995. This report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1996.

(Signed) Utula Utuoc SAMANA
Acting Chairman of the Special
Committee on the Situation with
regard to the Implementation of
the Declaration on the Granting
of Independence to Colonial
Countries and Peoples

His Excellency
Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 1/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. By resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, adopted at its eighteenth session, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 2/ has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

"22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

"(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

"(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fiftieth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 3/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995, in which it, inter alia:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1995, including the programme of work envisaged for 1996; 4/

"...

"11. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence and, in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

"(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist world-wide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. Also calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1996 session;".

9. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted nine other resolutions, one consensus and three decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	50/36	6 December 1995
New Caledonia	50/37	6 December 1995
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	50/38 A and B	6 December 1995

Consensuses

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	50/415	6 December 1995

Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	See 50/402	22 September 1995
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	50/406	31 October 1995

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	50/32	6 December 1995
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	50/33	6 December 1995
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	50/34	6 December 1995
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	50/35	6 December 1995
Dissemination of information on decolonization	50/40	6 December 1995

3. Decision concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	50/412	6 December 1995

10. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of East Timor" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session (see decision 50/402).

11. At its 45th plenary meeting, on 31 October 1995, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland

Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session (decision 50/406).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session which were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and which were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1840).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As at 1 January 1996, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members:

Afghanistan
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Ethiopia
Fiji
Grenada
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 1996 appears in document A/AC.109/INF/34.

14. By a letter dated 26 July 1996 addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2068), the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations informed the Acting Chairman of the decision of the Government of Afghanistan to withdraw from membership in the Special Committee as of that date. On 6 August 1996, the Acting Chairman transmitted the above-mentioned letter to the President of the General Assembly for appropriate action.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1996 and election of officers

15. The representative of the Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its opening (1454th) meeting, on 16 February 1996. The Chairman made a statement at the same meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1454).

16. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Alimamy Pallo Bangura (Sierra Leone)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

Rapporteur: Mr. Farouk Al-Attar (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

17. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to maintain its Working Group, which would continue to function as a steering committee, and the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, with the understanding that based on the proposal by the representative of Papua New Guinea for integration of the Subcommittee with the Special Committee, the Working Group, after necessary consultations, would make its recommendations on the proposal for the consideration by the Special Committee.

18. By adopting the Chairman's suggestions referred to above, the Special Committee also requested its Subcommittee to meet in May to complete consideration of the items allocated for its review and report and, in addition to considering the items indicated in paragraph 19 below, to carry out the specific tasks assigned to the Special Committee by the General Assembly concerning the items referred to it.

19. The Special Committee further decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (ibid., paras. 2 and 3).

20. Statements relating to the organization of work were made at the 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by the Chairman and by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Indonesia, Cuba, Portugal, Papua New Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, China and Tunisia (see A/AC.109/SR.1454); at the 1455th meeting, on 4 April, by the Chairman, the representatives of the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tunisia, Papua New Guinea, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, India, Trinidad and Tobago, China, Indonesia and Chile and the Secretary of the Special Committee; at the 1456th and 1460th meetings, on 22 and 24 July, respectively, by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1456 and 1460); at the 1461st meeting, on 24 July, by the Acting Chairman and the representative of Cuba; at the 1462nd meeting, on 25 July, by the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal; and at the 1463rd meeting, on 25 July by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1461, 1462 and 1463).

21. At the 1461st meeting, on 24 July, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Algeria had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

22. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852), the Special Committee took further decisions relating to its organization of work.

23. The Special Committee was invited to the Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown, from 3 to 6 July 1996 (see also para. 77).

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

24. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

25. The Special Committee held 12 meetings at Headquarters during 1996, as follows:

First part of the session:

1454th meeting, 16 February

1455th meeting, 4 April

Second part of the session:

1456th to 1465th meetings, 22 July to 1 August

26. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	Meetings	Decision
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	1461	A/51/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 18
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	1456	A/51/23 (Part IV), chap. VIII, para. 8
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico	1461-1463	A/51/23 (Part I), chap. I, paras. 41 and 42
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	1456	A/51/23 (Part VI), chap. X, para. 17

Question	Meetings	Decision
Tokelau	1463	A/51/23 (Part VII), chap. XI, para. 11
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	1458	A/51/23 (Part III), chap. V, para. 12
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	1456, 1458	A/51/23 (Part III), chap. VI, para. 11
Gibraltar	1458	A/51/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 18
East Timor	1458, 1461	A/51/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 13
New Caledonia	1461	A/51/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 32
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1457	A/51/23 (Part VIII), chap. XII, para. 14
Western Sahara	1461	A/51/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 31
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	1465	A/51/23 (Part IV), chap. VII, para. 16

27. The Special Committee considered the items allocated to its subsidiary bodies on the basis of the reports of the respective bodies (see paras. 29, 32, 35 and 37) and adopted decisions as indicated below.

2. Subsidiary bodies

(a) Working Group

28. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee decided to maintain its Working Group, the composition of which was to be as follows: Congo, Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran and Trinidad and Tobago, together with the five officers of the Special Committee, namely, the Chairman (Sierra Leone), the Vice-Chairmen (Cuba and Papua New Guinea) and the Rapporteur (Syrian Arab Republic), as well as the Chairman (Papua New Guinea) and the Rapporteur

(Trinidad and Tobago) of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance.

29. During the period covered by the present report, the Working Group held one meeting and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1852).

(b) Open-ended Working Group established at the 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996

30. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, on the recommendation of its Chairman, the Special Committee established an Open-ended Working Group with responsibility for making recommendations on how to improve further the efficiency of the work of the Special Committee, with the same composition and mandate as the Working Group of 1995.

31. The Open-ended Working Group of 1995 was composed of all members of the Special Committee and was open to any State Member of the United Nations. Administering Powers, in particular, as well as representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, were encouraged to participate.

32. During the report covered by the present report, the Open-ended Working Group held one meeting and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1842).

(c) Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance

33. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee decided to maintain the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, consisting of the entire membership of the Special Committee.

34. At the same meeting, the Special Committee elected Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea) as Chairman and Ms. Roslyn Lauren Khan-Cummings (Trinidad and Tobago) as Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Subcommittee.

35. The Subcommittee held seven meetings between 26 June and 8 July and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1843), which the Special Committee considered at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July.

36. An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the report of the Subcommittee relating to (a) American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands and (b) dissemination of information on decolonization is contained in chapter X (A/51/23 (Part VI)) and chapter III (A/51/23 (Part II)), respectively, of the present report.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

37. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to allocate the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable to the Working Group as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, 5/ it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its

programme of work for 1996, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee further recalled that, by paragraph 5 of resolution 50/39, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 1996.

38. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852). The relevant paragraph of that report reads as follows:

> "11. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-first session."

39. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation of the Working Group.

Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico 6/

40. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

41. At its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, on the proposal of the Bureau, the Special Committee decided to extend the postponement of the above item until 1997 and to give due consideration to requests for hearing on the basis of its usual practice.

42. At the 1462nd meeting, on 25 July, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. On the basis of the decision it had taken at its 1461st meeting, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and, at the 1462nd and 1463rd meetings, heard the representatives of the organizations concerned, as indicated below:

Petitioners

1462nd meeting

Mr. Juan Mari Bras, Causa Comun Independista

Mr. Noel Colón Martinez, Congreso Nacional Hostosiano

Mr. Fernando Martín, Puerto Rican Independence Party

Mr. Victor Vazquez Hernandez, on behalf of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights

Mr. Julio A. Muriente Perez, Nuevo Movimiento Independentista de Puerto Rico

Mr. Harry Anduze Montano, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico

Mr. Ronald Fernandez, Justice for Puerto Rico

Mr. Juan Carlos Lizardi, Statehood Committee

Ms. Laura Halstead-Garza, on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party

1463rd meeting

Ms. Elsie Valdés, Puertorricans Pro-Statehood, Inc. and League of United American Citizens South-east Region

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

43. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (ibid.), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to include in its agenda for the current session an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it at its plenary meetings and at meetings of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance.

44. In taking these decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 50/39, by paragraph 11 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

45. During the year, the Special Committee and its Subcommittee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see chaps. IX-XI of the present report, A/51/23 (Parts V-VII)).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization

46. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to consider at its plenary meetings and at meetings of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

47. The Special Committee and its Subcommittee accordingly took that decision into account in their consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

48. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (ibid.), the

Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate and to refer it to its Working Group for consideration and recommendations.

49. Having regard to its programme of work for 1997, the Special Committee, at its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. Also at its 1464th meeting, by approving the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of its Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1997 in connection with the above question, and, when particulars of such meetings had become known, that the Special Committee would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure.

4. Pattern of conferences

50. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to refer it to its Working Group for consideration and recommendations. In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken heretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

51. During the year, the Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the official documents issued by the Special Committee in 1996 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

52. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the item on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852). The relevant paragraphs of that report read as follows:

> "5. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 50/206 of 23 December 1995. By organizing its programme of work effectively, holding extensive consultations, working in informal sessions and streamlining the work of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, which had had a shorter session than in previous years, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the

Special Committee continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

"6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1997, the Committee consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

February/June	As required
July	Up to 20 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) Subsidiary bodies

May/June	15 meetings (1-4 meetings a week)

"7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1997, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Working Group recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum."

53. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

5. Control and limitation of documentation

54. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question of control and limitation of documentation on the basis of recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (ibid.). The relevant paragraphs of that report read as follows:

"8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984 and 50/206 B of 23 December 1995. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee streamline its report to the General Assembly.

"9. By its resolution 50/206 B, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim record by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it maintain its summary records.

"10. The Working Group noted with concern the decision of the Department of Public Information to suspend its coverage of the Special Committee and its subsidiary body and recommended to the Special Committee that it urge the General Assembly to request the Department to resume full coverage of the activities of the Special Committee."

55. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

56. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal, as representatives of the administering Powers concerned, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee, as reflected in chapters IX to XI of the present report (A/51/23 (Parts V-VII)).

57. The delegations of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee. 7/

58. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1849, as amended, on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution (A/AC.109/2067), the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see chap. IV, para. 18, of the present report, A/51/23 (Part II)).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

59. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work on the basis of recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852). The relevant paragraph of that report reads as follows:

> "14. The Working Group decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate."

60. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

61. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972, by paragraph 2 of which the Assembly recommended that, "on the occasion of the Week, ... appropriate materials should be published in the press and broadcast on radio and television and public campaigns should be conducted with a view to obtaining contributions to the Assistance Fund for the Struggle

against Colonialism ...", and as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance relating to the question of dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/L.1843), the representative of the Vice-Chairman (Cuba) made a statement on 14 June at the Pacific Regional Seminar, held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996, in commemoration of the Week (see chap. III, para. 8, of the present report, A/51/23 (Part II)).

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

62. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the following recommendation contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852):

> "4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 16 February 1996, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Working Group also recommended that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1997."

63. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

10. Integration of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance with the Special Committee

64. The proposal for integration of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance with the Special Committee, which was made by the delegation of Papua New Guinea (see para. 17 above) was discussed by the Special Committee at its 1454th, 1455th and 1464th meetings, on 16 February, 4 April and 26 July, respectively. The Special Committee considered the question on the basis of the recommendation contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852). The relevant paragraph of that report reads as follows:

> "15. The Working Group may recall that the proposal for integration, which was made by the delegation of Papua New Guinea, was discussed by the Open-ended Working Group of the Special Committee on 29 March 1996. It was felt that for further consideration, the delegation of Papua New Guinea should prepare a written proposal comparing the mandates and functions of the Special Committee and of its subsidiary body. The delegation of Papua New Guinea submitted the written proposal on the question of integration. The Working Group addressed the issue and decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it defer any action in this regard until further examination of the proposal during the next session of the Special Committee, in 1997."

65. At its 1464th meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

11. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

66. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401, on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 1995 session 8/ in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

67. At its 1456th meeting, on 22 July, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

12. Other questions

68. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to request the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1840, paras. 11 and 12).

69. This decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items at both Subcommittee and plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

70. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 50/34 relating to that item, consultations were held during the year between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Further, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee participated in the Council's consideration of the related item. An account of the foregoing, and of the Special Committee's consideration of the item, is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/51/23 (Part IV)).

2. Commission on Human Rights

71. During the year, the Special Committee followed closely the work of the Commission on Human Rights in regard to the question of the right of peoples to

self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

72. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions 1996/6, 1996/8, 1996/11, 1996/15, 1996/16 and 1996/18 of 11 April 1996, 1996/41 of 19 April 1996 and 1996/78 of 23 April 1996; and resolution 1996/25 of 19 April 1996 on the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Subcommission's report. 9/ The Special Committee also took note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on his visit to Indonesia and East Timor from 3 to 7 December 1995 10/ and his report of 18 March 1996. 11/ The Special Committee also took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 50/135 to 50/139, 50/148 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995 and 50/171, 50/172, 50/174, 50/180, 50/184 and 50/201 of 22 December 1995.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

73. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 81 and 82 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

74. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee held consultations during the year with officials of several organizations. An account of those consultations and of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/51/23 (Part IV)).

75. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in chapters VII and X of the present report (see A/51/23 (Parts IV and VI)).

5. Organization of African Unity

76. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of OAU and maintained close liaison with its General Secretariat on matters of common interest.

6. Caribbean Community

77. The Acting Chairman represented the Special Committee at the Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown from 3 to 6 July 1996 (see also para. 23).

7. South Pacific Forum

78. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the South Pacific Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

79. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

9. Non-governmental organizations

80. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 50/39 and 50/40, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The related decisions of the Special Committee are reflected in chapter III of the present report (see A/51/23 (Part II)).

H. Action relating to international conventions/ studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

81. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 1996 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings and at meetings of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance in its examination of specific Territories.

82. The Special Committee continued during the year to monitor related developments in Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (see resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

83. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 50/136 of 21 December 1995, the relevant report of the Secretary-General, 12/ and Economic and Social Council decisions 1996/251 and 1996/255 of 23 July 1996.

84. In a related context, the Special Committee took into account during the year the relevant provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/8 of 11 April 1996 concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

I. Review of work

85. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, were again pursued in 1996. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, it was recommended that extensive consultations should be held with the administering Powers concerned and with representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that all administering Powers concerned should be urged to cooperate fully with the Special Committee. As in previous years, the Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on 12 Territories was consolidated into a single resolution (A/AC.109/2060; see chap. X, paras. 16 and 17, of the present report (A/51/23 (Part VI))).

86. The Special Committee also reviewed carefully its resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2067), information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2061), activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration in Territories under colonial domination (A/AC.109/2064) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2070), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2065).

87. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a regional seminar in Papua New Guinea in June 1996 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

88. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

89. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2063) which it recommends to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-first session (see chap. III of the present report, A/51/23 (Part II)).

90. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. As regards the Special Committee's decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee decided to defer consideration of that decision until 1997. However, in accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau, endorsed by the Special Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, the Special Committee heard statements by representatives of organizations concerned.

91. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce to a minimum the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

J. Future work

92. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and subject to any further directives which it may receive from the Assembly during its fifty-first session, the Special Committee intends during 1997 to pursue its efforts in seeking the best ways and means for the implementation of the Declaration in all Territories that have not yet attained independence. In particular, the Special Committee will keep under review developments concerning each Territory, as well as the compliance by all States, in particular the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. On the basis of that review, the Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

93. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in this connection include a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee in 1997, to be attended by the representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

94. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens, the Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that the Special Committee has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030 and A/AC.109/2058).

95. It is the Special Committee's intention to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the action taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of

the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. The Special Committee will also be guided by the results of further consultations to be held in 1997 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council within the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Further, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the Secretaries-General and senior officials of regional organizations such as OAU, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions where the majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are located. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in their assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those regions.

96. The Special Committee intends to continue to review measures to bring to an end the activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration in Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also to continue its study of military activities and arrangements in those Territories.

97. In its resolutions relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly has repeatedly called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers on the matter.

98. Taking into consideration its mandate over Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

99. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within the existing resources.

100. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years, as well as its probable workload for 1997, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 1997, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

101. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-first session, examines the question of the implementation of the

Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 1997. In addition, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In this connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly should again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. Bearing in mind the affirmation by the Assembly that direct association of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories towards a position of equality with States Members of the United Nations, the Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly should continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee of the items relating to their respective Territories. Further, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

102. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly should make adequate provision to cover the activities the Special Committee envisages for 1997. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1996 and 1997 based on the level of activities approved for the year 1995, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made for its approval to the General Assembly. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 1996 session

103. At its 1456th meeting, on 22 July, the Special Committee decided to request the Rapporteur to prepare the present report and to submit it directly to the General Assembly, in accordance with established practice.

104. At the 1465th meeting, on 1 August, the Acting Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 1996 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1465).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

2/ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fiftieth sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/49/23); and ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

4/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

5/ Ibid., chap. I, para. 95.

6/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23), chap. I, para. 56.

7/ For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23), chap. I, paras. 68 and 69.

9/ E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51.

10/ E/CN/4/1996/112.

11/ E/CN.4/1996/103.

12/ E/1996/83.

Annex

LIST OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/INF/34	List of delegations	11 July 1996
A/AC.109/2041 and Corr.1	Bermuda (working paper)	7 March 1996 9 May 1996
A/AC.109/2042	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism - Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996: guidelines and rules of procedure	30 April 1996
A/AC.109/2043	St. Helena (working paper)	16 April 1996
A/AC.109/2044 and Add.1	American Samoa (working paper)	25 April 1996 3 July 1996
A/AC.109/2045	Anguilla (working paper)	25 April 1996
A/AC.109/2046	New Caledonia (working paper)	9 May 1996
A/AC.109/2047 and Add.1	Guam (working paper)	30 May 1996 19 June 1996
A/AC.109/2048	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	18 June 1996
A/AC.109/2049 and Corr.1 and 2	East Timor (working paper)	17 June 1996 16 July 1996
A/AC.109/2050	Tokelau (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2051	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2052	Montserrat (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2053	Cayman Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2054 and Add.1	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996 19 June 1996
A/AC.109/2055	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2056	Pitcairn (working paper)	21 June 1996
A/AC.109/2057	Gibraltar (working paper)	5 July 1996
A/AC.109/2058	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, Particularly their Political Evolution towards Self-Determination by the Year 2000, held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996	10 July 1996
A/AC.109/2059	Western Sahara (working paper)	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/2060	Question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2061	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2062	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1457th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2063	Dissemination of Information on Decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2064	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in territories under colonial domination: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996	23 July 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2065	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2066	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/2067	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/2068	Letter dated 26 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee	6 August 1996
A/AC.109/2069	Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1463rd meeting, on 25 July 1996	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/2070	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1465th meeting, on 1 August 1996	6 August 1996
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/L.1840	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	6 February 1996
A/AC.109/L.1841	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	6 February 1996
A/AC.109/L.1842	Report of the Working Group	2 April 1996
A/AC.109/L.1843	Report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance	10 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1844	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Chile, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela	15 July 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/L.1845	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1846	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Acting Chairman	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1847	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1848	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: report of the Acting Chairman	18 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1849	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	18 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1850	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	18 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1851	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	24 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1852	103rd report of the Working Group	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1853	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Acting Chairman	26 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1854	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	26 July 1996

CHAPTER II

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

1. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

2. The Special Committee considered the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, Particularly their Political Evolution towards Self-Determination by the Year 2000 at its 1454th and 1461st meetings, on 16 February and 24 July 1996.

3. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the Special Committee's organization of work for the year (A/AC.109/L.1841), decided to allocate to the Working Group and plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

4. On 30 April, the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2042) were issued.

5. A detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Pacific Regional Seminar, which was held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996, as well as a summary of the discussions held, is contained in the report of the Seminar prepared by its Rapporteur (A/AC.109/2058). The report includes the topics discussed at the Seminar, as well as the list of participants.

6. At the 1461st meeting, on 24 July, the Acting Chairman made a statement relating to the report of the Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1461).

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the report of the Seminar (A/AC.109/2058).

8. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question of the International Decade on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "12. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Working Group decided to

recommend to the Special Committee that it organize in 1997 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"13. The Working Group further decided to recommend that the Special Committee invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session."

9. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.